

issues. He was able to make decisions and had a lot of common sense.

When his fellowship was finished, he joined my staff here in Washington. He worked on military and veterans affairs, and transportation and technology issues. He came to work here in my Washington office while continuing to serve his Guard unit in Nevada.

As I mentioned earlier, he also earned a master's degree in public administration from George Washington University, my alma mater, working full time when he was doing this.

He worked for me 4 years back here, and I asked him if he would return to Nevada. He is not from Las Vegas. He is from northern Nevada, Reno, but being the good soldier he is, he agreed to do this.

He has done a tremendous job in this very demanding position, and during all this, he continues to fulfill all his duties in the Army National Guard.

Colonel Herbert now has 29 years of service, which you would never believe if you met him because he looks so young. He is the State Army Aviation Officer, meaning he is in charge of all the Army aviation guard in Nevada.

He has more than 7,000 hours as a pilot, and that time is split about half with helicopters and half with airplanes.

In the Nevada Army National Guard, they mostly fly helicopters. They have the OH-58, which is used in counterdrug trafficking and the Blackhawk, which is an air ambulance unit, and the Chinook, which is used for heavy lifting and is especially useful for fighting fires. They also have a KingAir airplane.

We all trust people who work for us. We trust their judgment, and we rely on their experience and skill, but I literally trust Bob Herbert with my life, as he has flown me to various places around the State of Nevada.

I am very proud of this man, the way he represents me, the State of Nevada, and the Senate. I know all Nevadans are proud not only of Colonel Herbert but all the brave men and women who are serving our State and our Nation today.

REMOVAL OF COSPONSORSHIP

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be removed as a cosponsor from amendment No. 3801 to the National Intelligence Reform Act of 2004, S. 2845. There has been a misunderstanding. That is the reason I ask that this request be granted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, tomorrow marks the beginning of October, celebrated nationally as National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Earlier this week, this body unanimously

passed a resolution that commemorates National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and renews the Senate's commitment to raise awareness about domestic violence and its devastating impact on families. While the Violence Against Women Act has been law for 10 years, none of us can afford to stop talking about domestic violence and encouraging victims to come forward and seek help.

Throughout the month, cities, organizations, businesses, religious institutions, and many others are organizing events to commemorate National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For instance, Marie Claire magazine and Liz Claiborne Inc. have joined forces to create "Its Time to Talk" Day on October 14 to encourage greater public dialogue about domestic violence. Around the country, media personalities, governmental officials, domestic violence advocates, businesses and the public-at-large will be taking a moment—or more—to talk openly about this "dirty little secret" that affects nearly one in three women in this country.

The health care community has designated October 13 as Health Care Cares About Domestic Violence Day to raise awareness, and encourage doctors and nurses to screen for domestic violence while delivering routine and emergency care. On October 7, Marshall's will donate a percentage of that day's sales from all of its stores to organizations fighting domestic violence. Many communities, from Morrisville, VT to Lake Charles, LA, are holding candlelight vigils to remember and honor victims of domestic violence.

I cannot overestimate the importance of these local and national events that spotlight domestic violence and enlist the whole community to get involved. While much progress has been made at the local, State and Federal level to hold batterers accountable with serious consequences and treat victims with dignity, the scourge of domestic violence is far from over. Progress is not mission accomplished.

Tragic statistics reveal the stark truth that we cannot turn our attention away from fighting domestic violence. On average, each day more than three women are murdered by this husband or boyfriend. Nearly one in three women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during her lifetime. In a recent poll, nine in ten women said that ending domestic violence was their number one priority. One in five adolescent girls becomes a victim of physical or sexual abuse, or both, in a dating relationship. In addition to the incalculable human costs of domestic violence, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently found that violence against women costs our country in excess of \$5.8 billion each year.

As resolute police chiefs retire, State task forces reorganize or committed district attorneys are replaced by newly elected leaders, we must ensure

that the messages, protocols, policies, and dialogues fostered by the Violence Against Women Act become institutionalized across the country. We need to usher the Act into the 21st century and implement it with the next generation—recent police academy graduates who want to be trained on handling family violence, newly elected state legislators who want to update State laws on stalking, and the next generation of children who must be taught that abuse will not be tolerated.

Next year the Senate will have the opportunity to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act which may make improvements to core programs, tighten criminal penalties and create new solutions to challenges facing battered women. Some of the initiatives suggested include school-based programs to treat the millions of children who witness domestic violence, home visitation programs to prevent family violence, targeted training and education about domestic violence for health professionals, and greater transitional housing resources. I look forward to working with my colleagues to craft a comprehensive and balanced Violence Against Women Act of 2005.

In the meantime, I thank the countless men and women working tirelessly in their hometowns to end domestic violence. As I have said before, these advocates, lawyers, service providers, judges, police, nurses, shelter directors and many more, are saving lives, one woman at a time. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we have a chance to acknowledge their hard work, talk loud and clear about domestic violence and support the courageous women escaping violent homes.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I today speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On November 29, 2001 in Santa Rosa, CA, three teenagers were charged with battery, conspiracy and a hate crime for allegedly assaulting a student they believed was gay.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. By passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from rollcall vote No. 193. On the motion to table amendment No. 3795, to S. 2845, I